

# BLUFF BEATS THE STUFF IN BASEBALL!

BY BILLY MURPHY.

That the phenomenal pitcher possesses an auxiliary "brain" that is responsible for his success, is the belief of the followers of the great national game.

The expert twirler's extraordinary coolness, an extremely important factor in any game, many say, is due to the possession of his "auxiliary brain" for it has become accustomed to respond only to certain impulses and remains quiescent in their absence.

All well and good, but along comes the veteran hurler himself with another theory. It is well known that the greatest feat in the game is the twirling of a no-hit, no-run game.

When it comes to the ninth inning, the strain is something terrific.

Standing with the ball in your hands, planning a curve, that may be hit and deprive you of a place in the diamond's Pantheon of fame, is some burden.

Thousands are awaiting the second when the sphere shall leave your hands.

Right here it is not the auxiliary brain that aids and abets in retiring the side, but "the bluff."

"In short," says the veteran of the box, "the bluff always beats the stuff."

Baseball is a great game. Its greatest heroes are the men who have pitched the no-hit, no-run games.

And the curious thing about the no-hit games of history, some of the oldest pitchers of longest service, never got one, while many of them were hurled by men who lasted only a little while.

Richmond, Hawke, Eason and Bumpas Jones for example, had only short careers in fast company. The first no-hit game was twirled by Jimmie Galloway against the Cass club of Detroit in a game at Iona, Mich., in 1876. Not a man reached first base.

Since then the following have inscribed their names on the no-hit record:

1880—Richmond (Worcester) vs.

lyn, June 21. Titcomb (Rochester) vs. Syracuse, September 15.

1891—Lovett (Brooklyn) vs. New York, June 22. Rusie (New York) vs. Brooklyn, July 31. Breitenstein (Louisville) vs. St. Louis, October 4.

1892—Stilwells (Boston) vs. Brooklyn, August 6. Sanders (Louisville) vs. Baltimore, August 22. Jones (Cincinnati) vs. Pittsburgh, October 15.

1893—Hawke (Baltimore) vs. Washington, August 16.

1897—Cy Young (Cleveland) vs. Cincinnati, September 18.

1898—Breitenstein (Cincinnati) vs. Pittsburgh, April 22. Hughes (Baltimore) vs. Boston, April 22. Thornton (Chicago) vs. Boston, July 8. Thornton (Chicago) vs. Brooklyn, August 21.

1899—Phillippe (Louisville) vs. New York, May 28. Gray (Buffalo) vs. Indianapolis, May 8. Newton (Indianapolis) vs. Milwaukee, June 9. Willis (Boston) vs. Washington, August 7.

1901—Hahn (Cincinnati) vs. Philadelphia, July 12. Mathewson (New York) vs. St. Louis, July 15.

1902—Callahan (Chicago) vs. Detroit, September 20.

1903—Fraser (Philadelphia) vs. Chicago, September 20.

1904—D. T. (Cy) Young (Boston)

vs. Philadelphia, May 5. Tannehill (Boston) vs. Chicago, August 17.

1905—Mathewson (New York) vs. Chicago, June 13. Henley (Philadelphia) vs. St. Louis, July 22. Dineen (Boston) vs. Chicago, September 27. Smith (Chicago) vs. Detroit, September 6.

1906—Lush (Philadelphia) vs. Brooklyn, May 2. Eason (Brooklyn) vs. St. Louis, July 20.

1907—Pfeffer (Boston) vs. Cincinnati, May 8. Maddox (Pittsburgh) vs. Brooklyn, September 20.

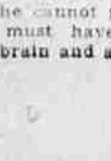
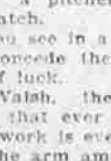
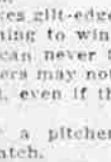
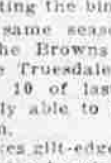
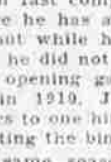
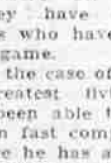
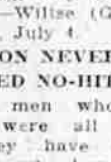
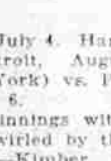
1908—D. T. (Cy) Young (Boston) vs. New York, June 20. Willis (New York) vs. Philadelphia, July 4. Rucker (Brooklyn) vs. Boston, September 5. Rhoades (Cleveland) vs. Boston, September 18. Smith (Chicago) vs. Athletics, September 20. Joss (Cleveland) vs. Chicago, October 2.

1909—April 15, opening day of season in New York. Ames, New York, pitched nine innings against Brooklyn, the latter not making a hit in that time, but New York losing the game in the thirteenth inning.

1910—Joss (Cleveland) vs. Chicago, April 20 (no run). Bender (Philadelphia) vs. Cleveland, May 12 (no run).

1911—Wood (Boston) vs. St. Louis, July 29. Walsh (Chicago) vs. Boston, August 27.

1912—Mullin (Detroit) vs. St.



Louis, July 4. Hamilton (St. Louis) vs. Detroit, August 30. Tesreau (New York) vs. Philadelphia, September 6.

Ten innings without a hit have been twirled by the following:

1889—Kimber (Brooklyn) vs. Toledo, October 1.

1890—King (Chicago) vs. Brooklyn, June 21.

1905—McIntyre (Brooklyn) vs. Pittsburgh, July 18.

1908—Willie (Giants) vs. Philadelphia, July 4.

JOHNSON NEVER

PITCHED NO-HIT GAME.

The men who twirled these games were all master boxmen, but they have been wonderful pitchers who have never hurled a no-hit game.

Take the case of Walter Johnson. This greatest living slabster has never been able to pitch a no-hit game in fast company.

Twice he has almost turned the trick, but while having the "stuff" always, he did not have the "bluff." In the opening game of the campaign in 1910, Johnson held the Athletics to one hit, J. Franklin Baker getting the bingle.

The same season Johnson confined the Browns to a single hit, Frankie Truesdale poling that one. June 10 of last season, Detroit was only able to make one hit off Johnson.

It takes gift-edged fielding as well as pitching to win a no-hit contest. You can never tell in baseball. Fielders may not support a pitcher right, even if they play errorless ball.

Many a pitcher is saved by a great catch.

So you see in a no-hit game, we must concede there is a big element of luck.

Ed Walsh, the greatest pinch pitcher that ever lived, once said: "Head work is everything in pitching. The arm amounts to nothing. It is only a piece of bone and muscle hanging to your shoulder."

But, today, the great Sox twirler has his wonderful brain and game heart, but his arm is gone.

And he cannot pitch.

You must have something besides a brain and a great heart like

**A**T top: James J. Callahan of the Chicago Americans. Below, left to right: Jeff Tesreau of the Giants; Ed Walsh of the White Sox; George Mullin of the Detroit Tigers; Chief Bender of the Athletics; Earl Hamilton of the St. Louis Browns.

Ed Walsh's. You must possess a cast-iron arm.

Several times Walsh has tried to "come back." But his attempts have been pitiful. Pitiful and sorrowful to see that once wizard of the mound try to exercise his old away and potency, when his waning strength would not fortify his natural ability and cunning.

The Chicago Iron man is broken and smashed, but he was the greatest of them all when just one more game was needed to win an important series.

The spitball is blamed for the downfall of the famous Sox twirler. Russell Ford's ineffective pitching last season was also accounted for by his use of the expectation-shoot.

Students of the game claim to have discovered that Ford had to "seam" the ball to produce a curve. In other words, he gripped the leather with the seam between his forefingers in order to get a better grip.

Even then they say his curve ball was comparatively easy to hit.

**FORD GOT AWAY WITH GAMES BY BLUFFING.**

Ford, the players insisted, got

away with several games by bluffing with his spitter. He had no spitball in fact, but he went through the motions with his glove in front of his face, with the result that many batsmen were fooled for a time.

It was shown that Ford was pounded frequently after six innings had been played, which was due to the discovery that he had "nothing."

Ford's \$5,000 contract expired last fall.

Discussing the great pitchers of the game, Willie Keeler, one of the famous hitters of the olden days, said:

"I found during the long time that I was in the big league that Amos Rusie and Ed Walsh were the hardest pitchers for me to hit."

"I have gone through a season without striking out and Rusie and Walsh have had the distinction of making me fan twice in one game."

"Rusie did the trick when I was with the Baltimore club back in 1904."

"Amos certainly could shoot them over. He had more speed on his curve ball than some of the present day pitchers have on their fast ones."

"When the big fellow, who was with the Giants, was going right, he was a wonder. When he was going good, it was not necessary for him to pitch any curves. His fast one had an inconceivable hop on it and it was impossible to connect with it."

"Ed Walsh was another great one with that spitter of his. I have seen all kinds of wet balls, but Walsh had one that won the cake."

"I always thought that Jack Chesbro had about the best I would ever see, until I gazed on Walsh's. It's broke better than any I ever faced."

"Some days a spitball pitcher hasn't the delivery that he has on others. But when Walsh was good, he was the best of the present day boxmen."

No discussion of pitching and

## Diamond Immortals Tell How They Get Away With It When They Are in the Final Moments of a No-Hit, No-Run Game, and One Little Mistake Would Mean Defeat.

no-hit games would be complete without a mention of Christy Mathewson, who is the owner of two no-hit games.

"Bix Six" today is apparently as good as ever.

What other pitcher ever overcame so many handicaps and yet remained at the top of the profes-

sion wear Matty down under the conditions of the time, but, as if this wasn't enough, the horses next put the liveliest ball in the game.

Only the fast strike-out pitchers could really cope with this change of conditions—excepting Matty.

A little extra carelessness, a little added craft, a strike-out switched in here and there, and Matty was trilling along, taking care of his games just the same as ever.

More handicaps, due to advancing age, have now added their burden. Once active as a cat in pouncing on bunts—almost an extra infielder in his skill—Matty's legs are all slowed up and he can't get over the grass.

To hunt on Matty is what is colloquially called a "cinch."

But they seldom do it. He flings a ball that is apparently hard to hunt or else tempts them irresistibly to wallop madly and in vain.

His slower fielding makes but little difference in his work.

The same slowness of his feet has skilled his batting. Formerly Matty's own hitting would help win many a close battle, but nowadays he bats like the general run of pitchers—like a respectable wash-lady.

In brief, Mathewson has lost youth, strength of arm, speed of foot, skill in fielding, skill in batting and has had a livelier ball shoved into the deck as an added weight.

And yet, there he is, victor over



Cleveland, June 12. Ward (Providence) vs. Buffalo, June 17. Corcoran (Chicago) vs. Boston, August 19. Galvin (Buffalo) vs. Worcester, August 20.

1882—Mullane (Louisville) vs. Cincinnati, September 11; Corcoran (Chicago) vs. Worcester, September 20. Becker (Louisville) vs. Pittsburgh, September 19.

1883—Radbourne (Providence) vs. Cleveland, June 25. Dalley (Cleveland) vs. Philadelphia, September 13.

1884—Corcoran (Chicago) vs. Providence, July 27. Galvin (Buffalo) vs. Detroit, August 4. McKoon (Indianapolis) vs. Cincinnati, May 6. Atkisson (Athletics) vs. Pittsburgh, May 24. Morris (Columbus) vs. Pittsburgh, May 29.

1885—Clarkson (Chicago) vs. Providence, July 27. Ferguson (Philadelphia) vs. Providence, August 29.

1886—Terry (Brooklyn) vs. St. Louis, July 24. Atkisson (Athletics) vs. Metropolitans, May 1. Kilroy (Baltimore) vs. Pittsburgh, October 6.

1888—Terry (Brooklyn) vs. Louisville, May 27. Porter (Kansas City) vs. Baltimore, June 6. Seward (Athletics) vs. Cincinnati, June 26. Weyhing (Athletics) vs. Kansas City, July 21.

1889—King (Chicago) vs. Brook-

sion the way that he has done? Few of the fans—perhaps few of the New York players even—step to figure out the obstacles that Matty has successfully overcome.

Years ago his arm weakened under the strain of throwing fast ones.

Matty promptly devised a pitching system which would bother the batsman, yet require less expenditure of speed and energy.

**MATTY USED CONTROL IN PLACE OF SPEED.**

He lessened his strike-out record, but made up by fewer bases on balls, this development of control also evening up for a few extra-base hits.

Ever long this style of pitching proved wholly successful, if there was any sort of fielding back of it.

The weight of advancing years and the toll of many battles might have been reasonably expected to

every handicap, still pitching and still winning.

A review of Baseball Immortals shows Tim Keefe of the old New York Giants and Rube Marquard of the present New York team tied for the world's successive pitching victories' record. In 1899, Keefe won nineteen consecutive games. Marquard equaled this in 1912.

The strike-out record for a nine-inning game is held by the great Charley Sweeney, who, while pitching for Providence against Boston, in 1883, struck out twenty-one.

Rube Waddell and Fred Glade, while playing for the St. Louis Browns, each fanned sixteen batsmen. Washington and the Athletics were the respective victims.

The records for the greatest number of games twirled in a season are held by Radbourne, Providence, 1884, 72, and John Clarkson, Boston, 1899, 72.